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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 9, 2005

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STOCKTON CRACK DEALER SENTENCED TO 24 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that TROY EUGENE KING, (31), of Stockton, California, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Garland E. Burrell, Jr., to 292 months (24 years and 3 months) in federal prison, and given a 10-year term of supervised release to commence on his release from prison. The defendant was found guilty by a federal trial jury on August 4, 2005 of distribution of cocaine base, and possession with the intent to distribute cocaine and cocaine base.

This case is the product of an extensive/joint investigation by the Stockton Police Department's Drug Unit, and the Stockton FBI Violent Crime Task Force.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Richard J. Bender, who prosecuted the case, the defendant was identified as a large scale supplier of powder cocaine and crack cocaine to crack dealers in Stockton. The evidence at trial proved that the defendant sold three ounces of crack cocaine to a person working for, and under the supervision of, law enforcement authorities. After the exchange of the drugs for the cash, defendant KING "schooled" the buyer on drug dealing, including not being too flashy, and putting money aside for a lawyer. Several months after the undercover sale of drugs, a search warrant served at KING's residence netted additional cocaine powder, and an additional small amount of cocaine base. An empty bag of the type commonly used to package a kilogram of cocaine was also found in the house.

KING received an enhanced sentence due to two prior convictions for drug trafficking offenses, qualifying him for "career criminal" status under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines. In sentencing KING, Judge Burrell told him that he hoped the defendant could turn his life around, but that the seriousness of his crime and his criminal record required the sentence given.

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